THE THAMES TUNNEL SURPASSED.—A submarine tunnel has lately been discovered at Marseilles. It passes from the ancient Abbey of Victoria under an arm of the sea to Fort St. Nicholas. The *Débats* says that the structure is considered by M. Mstuyras, an architect, to be Roman, and much finer than the Thames Tunnel, being one-fourth longer, and formed of a single vault of 60 feet span.

HEALTH OF TOWNS.—Mr. Mackinnon has given notice that on the 18th inst. he will call the attention of the House to the necessity of improving the health of towns by preventing burial of the dead within their precincts; and that on the 20th inst. he shall move for leave to bring in a bill prohibiting the nuisance of smoke from the furnaces of factories.

DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—The landlord will do nothing but exact an exorbitant rent for houses unfit to be inhabited; the poor man is either too ignorant, too indifferent, or too powerless to help himself; the Commissioners of Sewers abandon him; the Woods and Forests hunt him like a wild beast from one end of London to another. To whom shall he resort in his distress? Will the Government help him? To be sure they will. They have shewn the best disposition in the world. They have collected a vast deal of valuable information, they know all about Punderson's-gardens and Lamb's-fields; they are most desirous of doing all they can for his comfort. Our streets for the future are to be wider, our houses are to be much better built, we are to inhabit cellars no longer, and it is now fairly to be expected that, as party-walls have been long insisted on as means of preventing the destruction of property, a supply of water and proper sewers will be given us to preserve our lives from fever. But when are the good intentions of the legislature to take effect? It is for existing things that legislation is urgently required. We do well to provide for the future, but the present ought not to be kept out of sight. Dr. Southwood Smith points out two regulations as being of paramount importance, and of universal application to the dwelling-houses of the humbler classes—the prohibition, under adequate penalties, of the letting of any house as a dwelling-house in which water is not laid on, and to which there is no privy sufficiently screened from view. To the enforcement of these regulations he sees no practical difficulty; nor do we. Will the legislature have the moral courage to compel the landlords to the performance of their duty? We shall see. They must first expect a little discussion as to the meaning of the phrase "rights of property." Have they the courage to put a reasonable interpretation upon it? We shall see.—*Medical Times.*

SAWING BY MACHINERY.—In reply to a request from the sawyers of Oldham, that Lord John Russell would aid in obtaining a tax on mechanical inventions, his lordship has very properly refused to do so. "If I were to comply," says his lordship, "I could not stop with your trade. Nail-makers are in a similar situation, owing to the new machinery for the manufacture of nails; other artisans and agricultural labourers will pray for the like interference, to prevent the use of new machines which interfere with manual labour. Now, my belief is, that those inventions tend to the improvement of our condition as a people, and to enable us to support the great weight of taxation to which we are subjected. Ever since I have known this country, machinery has been in progress towards perfection, performing more and more the task of human hands, and, at the same time, a great number of people have found profitable employment. I know, and I deplore, that while this progress is going on, many a workman loses the wages which skill and experience have enabled him to gain. But instead of the perilous course of laying duties on machinery, which would soon enable foreign nations to outstrip us in the score of competition, I am of opinion that we ought to give greater freedom to trade, and, if possible, so extend the demand for labour, that our population, greatly increased as it is, may obtain a good price for their day's work. I do not mean to pronounce any opinion on the late tariff, so far as regards timber. If the sawyers of this country are subject to unfair competition, they have a cause for redress so far as colonial timber is concerned."

LECTURES AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—Sir Richard Westmacott will commence his course on sculpture on *Monday* the 17th inst., and continue it on the 24th March, 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. Mr. Howard, on painting, will begin on *Thursday* the 20th inst., and continue on the 27th, the 6th of March, the 13th, 20th, and 27th. Mr. Cockerell concluded his course on Thursday last. We shall give a full report of the lecture in our next.

SCULPTURE.—The Marquis of Landsdowne has commissioned Mr. Watson, the sculptor of the Eldon and Stowell statues, to execute two bas-reliefs of a poetic nature, for Mr. Barry's new gate to the noble marquis's seat at Bowwood.

PRESERVATION OF TIMBER.—Mr. Toplis recommends the introduction into the pores of timber of a solution of sulphate or of muriate of iron; the solution may be in the proportion of about two pounds of the salt to four or five gallons of water.

PROPOSED NEW PIER AT ERITH.—A meeting was held last Monday, at the Bell Inn, Erith, for the purpose of erecting a new pier, in consequence of the monopoly of the Diamond Company, who have the sole privilege of calling at the present pier. Mr. Noakes presided. Resolutions were passed in accordance with the object of the meeting.

STONE DRESSING MACHINERY.—A patent has been granted for this purpose to Mr. H. Ward, of Charles Town, Massachusetts, who thus describes it. The block of stone to be pecked and dressed is placed upon a carriage, which passes it, by a slow motion, under a series of pecking and dressing chisels. These chisels slide in a frame inclined to the plane of the carriage, that they may act on the stone obliquely, instead of vertically, and, for the purpose of changing this inclination, one end of this frame is jointed to the main frame of the machine, and the other may be elevated and pressed at pleasure. The chisels are held up by springs, and forced against the face of the stone by hammers actuated by tappets on two shafts, one at each end of the frame. The first and second rows of these chisels are pointed, for the purpose of pecking, and the others are flat, for dressing the surface. For squaring, or forming, the edges of the stone, there is a chisel on each side, with the lower edge at right angles with the side, and operated in the same manner as the peckers and dressers; these break off the stone, and form the edge, so that when the block is turned over to have the other faces dressed, the sharp corners shall not be broken off.

THE MONSTER BELL FOR YORK MINSTER.—The bell, intended to be put up in the south tower of York Minster, has recently been manufactured at the foundry of the Messrs. Mears, Whitechapel, and is larger than any other in the United Kingdom. Its weight exceeds twelve tons; it is 7 feet 7 inches in height, and its diameter is 8 feet 4 inches, being heavier by seven tons than the celebrated "Tom" of Lincoln, and by five tons than "Old Tom" of Oxford. The metal took twelve days to cool, from the 18th of January when it was poured into the mould to the 30th ult. The clapper is not yet put in, but this will weigh between three and four cwt. The tone of it is described as being exceedingly grand, and to be compared to the full swelling diapason of an organ. The arms of the city of York, and those of the archbishop (the cross keys), are on the bell in opposite positions to each other. The following inscription, in Lombardian characters, is round the upper rim:—"In sanctæ et æternæ Trinitatis honorem pecunia sponte collata Eboracenses faciendum curaverunt in usum ecclesiæ metrop. B. Petri ebor." And on the lower rim are the words, "Anno salutis MDCCCXLV Victoriæ reg. VIII. Edwardi Archiepi XXXVIII. C et G Mears, Londini, fecerunt." The cost of it is about 2,000*l.*, this having been raised by voluntary subscriptions, as alluded to in the above inscription. It is intended by the executive committee, previous to its removal to the cathedral at York, where it will be conveyed by railway, that the public should have an opportunity of seeing the bell (which is to be named "Peter of York") and which it will require the united efforts of twenty horses to draw.

Tenders.

FOR making a Sewer in the town of Cambridge. To be cylindrical and 2 feet diameter in the clear. The length about 385 yards, and the average depth about 9 feet.

The Commissioners of Paving and Lighting, met on the 21st ult., to examine the several tenders which had been sent in.

Mr. Cockerton complained of the course of a proposed drain, whose course was laid out through grounds belonging to St. Peter's college, and leased to Mr. Humfrey, in Prospect-row, without the consent of the college having been had. He was not at present in a position to give the consent of the college to the proposed course.—This objection was made before the confirming of the minutes of the former meeting, and some difficulty was raised to the reception of tenders for the drain which had been advertised for.

The tenders were received conditionally, that the work be not begun until an arrangement was made with the college, and a motion was passed to the effect that formal application be made to the college and the lessee. The following tenders were given:—

Thomas Brook, Hackney, Middlesex [laid aside in consequence of the blanks not being filled up].

Joseph Coulson, East-road, sewer 8s. 6d. per yard—cesspools 2*l.* 8s. each—lateral drains 3s. 6d. per yard.

James Stevens, Quay-side, sewer 8s. 5d.—cesspools 2*l.* 7s.—lateral drains 3s. 6d.

John Bennett, James-street, sewer 7s. 11d.—cesspools 2*l.* 10s.—lateral drains 3s. 3d.

Bell Hall, Castle-end, sewer 8s. 5d.—cesspools 2*l.* 8s. 6d.—lateral drains 3s.

Then cesspools are likely to be required. Mr. W. Swann proposed, and Mr. H. S. Foster seconded, that Bennett's tender be accepted. Mr. S. Adcock proposed that Coulson's tender be accepted, on the ground that you should have a man who will do his work well; some complaint had been made of the way in which Bennett had done his work, and there was an objection to Bennett also, because Mr. Asby, a commissioner, was a surety for him. Mr. Cream seconded the motion. After a noisy discussion on the merits of these parties, Stevens' tender was proposed by Mr. Cropley, but not seconded. A show of hands was taken, when there appeared 9 for Coulson and 8 for Bennett. The names were called for, when the following voting took place;—

For Coulson.—Messrs. Adcock, Favell, Warwicker, Swinton, Heaslip, Haslem, Cropley, Cream, Papworth, and Woodley.—10.

For Bennett.—Messrs. Balls, C. F. Foster, H. S. Foster, Hatt, Swann, Matthew, Marshall, and Asby.—8.

Mr. Ekin declined to vote. Coulson's tender was accepted conditionally.

TENDERS for the Alterations and Fittings of School-room under Vauxhall Chapel for a Wesleyan Day-school for Boys.—W. W. Jenkins, Esq., architect, Bartlett's Buildings.

Cooper and Davis	£134
Haynes and Co.	128
Thompson (Camberwell)	115

Tenders opened in the presence of the Builders.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

For a supply of Railway Fastenings for the Great Southern and Western Railway, Ireland.—Mr. William Taylor, Secretary, 3, College-green, Dublin. February 17.

For the Repairs of Landfield Church, near Cuckfield, Sussex.—Messrs. T. H. Taylor and Son, Architects, 22, Parliament-street, Westminster. February 17.

For building a Barge, 69 feet long and 13 feet wide, capable of navigating the river Lee.—James Wright, Deputy Storekeeper, Ordnance Office, Waltham Abbey. February 18.

For erecting and completing the Tide Sluices, Bridge, and other Works, at the top of the Eau-Brink Cut, above Lynn.—Messrs. Walker and Burges, 23, Great George-street, Westminster; or Mr. George Game Day, Clerk to the Middle Level Drainage Commissioners, St. Ives. February 20.

For the execution of the whole Works on the Slamannan Junction of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, being about a mile long.—H. G. Wright, Secretary, Railway Office, Queen-street, Glasgow. February 24.

For such Mason's and Pavior's works (stone paving only) as may be required by the Commissioners of Sewers of the City of London, for the term of three years, from the 25th of March next.—Joseph Daw, Esq., Guildhall, London.—February 25.

For the supply of Granite or other hard stone for the service of the Stone's End district of the

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